

CROP REPORT.

The following report of the condition of agricultural products in the State has been issued by State Commissioner B. M. Hord:

The final crop report for the year is made up from returns from eight hundred and eleven correspondents. These returns are of date Nov. 20, and with less than twenty exceptions, were written and mailed promptly upon that day. The figures given in the following review of the crop situation have been carefully revised, and it is believed that they are very close estimates of the total yields of the crops mentioned.

The total yield of corn, grown upon 3,410,526 acres, is estimated to be 55,269,865 bushels, about 2 per cent. below the estimate of one month ago. Of this total about 37 per cent., or 20,000,000 bushels, may be classed as unmerchantable, and of this unmerchantable corn nearly one-half is so badly damaged as to be unfit for any purpose whatever. Great care must be used in feeding out the corn in the cribs, not only to be given to horses and mules and cattle, but that fed to the stock pigs.

The cotton crop, the product of 821,019 acres, is estimated to be 344,346 bales of 465 pounds net each, of which West Tennessee (including that part of Hardin County east of the river), 302,403 bales; in Middle Tennessee and including a small area in East Tennessee, 41,943 bales. The first killing frost of the season did not occur until the 30th of October, but even at that late date a small portion of the crop was so injured that it will not open, and a considerable part of it stained and lowered in grade.

Drought in midsummer and continuous wet weather during the period of blooming very greatly reduced the yield of stock-peas. The gathering of peas can be done only in dry weather, and is a tedious labor. When used as a forage crop, or to be turned down as a fertilizer, the result has been satisfactory; but peas for next year's seed and for sale in the market will be scarce.

The area sown to wheat is estimated at 1,185,385 acres, a decrease of 10 per cent. compared with the acreage sown last year. The reduction of area is about 5 per cent. in the upper West Tennessee counties, 3 per cent. in the Central Basin, nearly 10 per cent. in East Tennessee, and greatest in those sections where the average annual yield is small. Fertilizers have been liberally used by wheat growers of East Tennessee, and in the counties of Sumner, Montgomery, Robertson, Warren, and Franklin, and to a limited extent elsewhere in Middle Tennessee. A small proportion of the average was sown in September, and seeding was not finished until the third week of November. The fly is reported in widely separated localities, as having appeared in the early sown fields; several observant correspondents have found them in large numbers upon the stems of wheat plant growing upon the sites of the wheat shocks of this year. Such breeding places should be carefully watched, and timely measures adopted to destroy the fall brood.

The area of winter oats is very small. In several of the upper East Tennessee counties a fair breadth has been seeded, and the crop is reported to be in promising condition.

and stalks in the corn-field. Every careful farmer will give his personal attention to the feeding of his live-stock, and make it a rule that no corn shall be taken from the cribs for feeding purposes except in broad daylight when the grain can be carefully inspected and all that is unsound carefully removed.

Sheep still decrease in number, and are rarely seen outside of the limited districts where early lambs are grown for market and on a few isolated ranges. A few good sheep are found in every county in the State, and it is still possible, under favorable legislation, to develop with little delay this very profitable branch of husbandry.

Hog cholera and other infectious diseases of swine still prevail in many sections of the State, but the losses this year have not been so heavy as in 1889. The condition of fattening hogs is not altogether satisfactory. In the sections where hogs are raised for marketing on foot the scarcity of corn has compelled the sale of large numbers not well fattened. The number to be slaughtered for home consumption is less than usual, and their condition not up to the average. The number of stock hogs is somewhat larger than at the same date last year, and the unusually heavy crop of acorns and nuts has kept them so far in very good condition. What number may be found in good order on the first of March next will depend very much upon the careful rejection of rotten corn during the winter feeding.

STARTLING A STRANGER.

New York Sun.

Down below Natchez, while the boat was running in close to the left-hand bank and had stopped her wheel to avoid a big tree floating in an eddy, we saw a native sitting on a stump fishing. He sat bent over, hat over his eyes, and there was scarcely a movement to tell that he was alive. We had a Smart Aleck with us on the promenade deck, and he had no sooner caught sight of the native than he called to one of the deckhands to toss him up a potato. A peck or more of the tubers were lying loose near a pile of sacks, and one was quickly tossed up.

"Now see me startle him," said Smart Aleck, as he swung his arm for a throw.

The distance was only about a hundred feet, and his aim was so true that the potato landed on the native's head with a dull thud. His motions were so quick that we couldn't agree as to how he did it, but in about three seconds he had dropped his fish-pole pulled out a revolver as long as his arm, and fired at Smart Aleck. The bullet bored a hole in his silk hat just above his hair, and the young man sunk down in a heap, and fainted dead away. When we restored him to his senses he carefully felt of the top of his head, and looked back at the fisherman, and absently asked:

"Did she explode both boilers, or only one?"

A rich man who is compelled to pay rent for all of his sons-in-law says he understands now what pay-rental duty means.—Texas Siftings.

A lady writes at the end of a letter to a friend: "Now I must conclude, for my feet are so cold that I can hardly write."—Pick Me-Up.

It would be a startling case of retaliation if Sitting Bull should capture Buffalo Bill and start a wild west show on his own hook.—Washington Post.

You can not arrive at accurate results as to how many Democrats there are in an assemblage of men by counting the new silk hats, but you can form a vague estimate.—Washington Post.

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10-11.

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